AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the piezoelectric actuators are in a random distribution pattern on the surface between the clamping plate and the closure plate.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the piezoelectric actuators are present on the surface between the clamping plate and the closure plate as a function of a distribution of force over the surface between the clamping plate and the closure plate.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the piezoelectric actuators are of a type capable of being differentially triggered according to a desired distribution of force over the surface between the clamping plate and the closure plate.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the piezoelectric actuators are of a type capable of being triggered dynamically so as to match a dynamic behavior of the material to be pressed and/or the tools to be clamped.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the piezoelectric actuators are in a geometric pattern which corresponds to machine requirements.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein a subset of piezoelectric **actuators** ~~means~~ are dual use means capable of piezoelectric actuation and piezoelectric sensoring.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein ~~the dual use piezoelectric means function as piezoelectric sensors only briefly~~ **all piezoelectric actuators are dual use means capable of piezoelectric actuation and piezoelectric sensoring**.

12. (Currently Amended) A pressure-generating apparatus comprising a stationary carrier plate, and a clamping plate traveling in relation thereto and capable of being fixed in working position, said clamping plate comprising on its side opposite towards the carrier plate an electromechanically disengageable closure plate, wherein material to be pressed or tools to be clamped are arranged between the ~~clamping~~ **closure** plate and the carrier plate, further wherein ~~a force is triggered to disengage the clamping plate by~~ a ~~number~~**plurality** of piezoelectric actuators **are arranged** ~~located at a position selected from the group consisting of~~ **between** ~~the carrier plate and the closure plate and between~~ the closure plate and the clamping plate, and the closure plate is capable of being fixed in at least one piezo displacement intermediate position from which intermediate position the ~~carrier~~ **clamping** plate can be guided and subsequently fixed with the closure plate being disengaged by an additional piezo displacement.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12 for use in an injection molding machine.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the piezoelectric actuators are distributed in a matrix.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the piezoelectric actuators are in the shape of a rectangle.

16. (NEW) A pressure-generating apparatus comprising:

- a stationary carrier plate,

- a clamping plate which can be moved in relation to the carrier plate and is capable of being fixed in working position,

- a closure plate which can be moved in relation to the clamping plate and is capable of being fixed in working position, the closure plate being arranged between the carrier plate and the clamping plate,

- a plurality of piezoelectric actuators arranged between the closure plate and the clamping plate for electromechanically moving the closure plate, wherein material to be pressed or tools to be clamped are arranged between the closure plate and the carrier plate.

17. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the piezoelectric actuators are in a random distribution pattern on the surface between the clamping plate and the closure plate.

18. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the piezoelectric actuators are present on the surface between the clamping plate and the closure plate as a function of a distribution of force over the surface between the clamping plate and the closure plate.

19. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the piezoelectric actuators are of a type capable of being differentially triggered according to a desired distribution of force over the surface between the clamping plate and the closure plate.

20. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the piezoelectric actuators are of a type capable of being triggered dynamically so as to match a dynamic behavior of the material to be pressed and/or the tools to be clamped.

21. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the piezoelectric actuators are in a geometric pattern which corresponds to machine requirements.

22. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein a subset of piezoelectric actuators are dual use means capable of piezoelectric actuation and piezoelectric sensoring.

23. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein all piezoelectric actuators are dual use means capable of piezoelectric actuation and piezoelectric sensoring.

24. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 16 for use in an injection molding machine.

25. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the piezoelectric actuators are distributed in a matrix.

26. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the piezoelectric actuators are in the shape of a rectangle.